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At a time when the current of economic thinking has for some time been running strongly in the direction of particularistic and concrete studies in so-called practical fields, Professor Kleene, by attempting to solve fundamental problems of theory at all, has earned the right to special commendation. He deserves credit also for recognizing that the characteristic method of economic theory is hypothetical, the method of successive approximations, and for exhibiting an example of the method that is far above the average. Students of economic theory, more especially general theory such as seeks for fundamentals, can read this book with advantage—for whether its thesis turns out to be true or not its stimulation to fundamental thinking is genuine. And those theorists who are still unwilling to place the price concept at the center of interest will welcome an earnest attempt like this one to show what can still be done without capitulating to the opposing camp.

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NEW BOOKS

DUNCAN, K. *Exercises in elementary economics.* (Canton, China: College Bookstore, Honglok. 1918. Pp. 72. \$1.50.)

Prepared to supply students in Chinese colleges with a convenient laboratory manual.

FOLWELL, W. W. *Economic addresses.* (Minneapolis: Bull. Univ. Minn. 1918. Pp. 99. 50c.)

The addresses are on the following subjects: the ethics of business, trusts, single tax, socialism true and false, and the new economics.

McKITTRICK, R. *Outlines and exercises in economics.* (Cedar Falls, Iowa: College Drug and Book Store. 1917. Pp. 137.)

Not intended as a textbook or a substitute for a textbook, but rather as a supplementary laboratory manual. Outlines are given under forty-one topics and with each outline there is a series of questions with references to the more important general and special texts. There are a few extended excerpts from books not readily accessible. The volume should prove helpful to the teacher of elementary economics, particularly in smaller colleges where library facilities are limited.

READ, H. E. *The abolition of inheritance.* (New York: Macmillan. 1918. Pp. xxvii, 312. \$1.50.)

Economic History and Geography

The Chartist Movement. By the late MARK HOVELL. Edited and completed, with a memoir, by T. F. TOUT. Publications

of the University of Manchester, No. CXVI. Historical Series, No. XXI. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1918. Pp. xxxvii, 327. \$2.50.)

In order to form a correct appreciation of this book, the reader must bear in mind the peculiar conditions under which it was prepared for publication. The chief matter in the volume, contained in chapters 1 to 17, was prepared in much its present form by Mr. Hovell for use in his lectures at the University of Manchester; the long concluding chapter which carries the history of Chartism from the failure of the petition in 1842 to the death of the movement in the following decade is the work of the editor, Professor Tout, who undertook to see the book through the press upon the death of the author on the battlefield in France (p. vii). This dual authorship accounts for the rather sharp break both in style and method between the last chapter and the rest of the volume, as it also explains the somewhat erratic and uncertain literary form throughout, which gives evidence that the rough draft left by Hovell required in places extensive connective tissue from another pen.

The book is a very interesting and readable account of the inner history of the Chartist movement. Chapter 1 describes in short compass the document known as the People's Charter and traces rapidly its historical antecedents, finding the germ of its essential characteristics in the political ideas of the Revolution as those ideas found expression in the Debates of 1647 and the Instrument of Government of 1653. This chapter also sounds the keynote of the author's thesis, *i.e.*, that Chartism "was a purely working class movement, originating exclusively and drawing its whole following from the industrialized and unpropertied working classes which had but recently come into existence. For the most part it was the revolt of this body against intolerable conditions of existence (p. 1). What these conditions were is told briefly but graphically in the following chapters. The economic life conditions of the working classes are treated in the chapter on the Industrial Revolution, the content of which, being drawn almost exclusively from Parliamentary Papers, contains little that is new to the student of English economic history. Other breeders of discontent are discovered in the new Poor Law, the disillusionment following the Reform Act of 1832, and the stirrings of radical theorising among the London artisans; and from these various sources the streams of popular rebellion are traced

to their confluence in the political union whose standard was the Charter. The many and dramatic incidents which marked the course of the People's Parliament, the agitations antecedent to it, the chequered career of its Petition, the schisms within the party which followed upon the failure of the first attempt to influence Parliament, the gradual rise of O'Connor to dominance, and the eventful history of the second petition are unfolded in a close historical narrative which carries easily the attention and interest of the reader through the maze of complex movements. The pages are illumined by vivid portrayals of the leading actors and a singularly humanizing touch animates and makes real the involved forces which interacted to produce the main current of events. This is the principal merit of the book: a difficult theme full of cross currents and divergent tendencies is handled in such manner as to show the relation of each part to the whole movement; the treatment is detailed but it does not weary the reader.

The concluding chapter forms a contrast with the rest of the volume not so much in point of excellence as in method of presentation and literary form; the history of the closing decade of the movement (1842-53), though fully as complicated and crowded with events as its earlier career, is compressed into much narrower compass; indeed, as the author intimates, this period is viewed rather as the epilogue than as an integral part of the Chartist movement. The wisdom of this point of view might be questioned; certainly we surrender a potential agency for explaining any movement in human affairs when we choose to disregard or slight those antagonistic social forces which proved themselves capable of destroying that movement. As interpreters of the behavior of men in society, the weaknesses of group action are quite as important as the elements of strength; and in so clear-cut a case of class conflict as is given by the Chartist movement, a study of the weaknesses of the movement renders a double service by making clear the natures of both contending groups; for the weakness of the one social class indicates the sources of strength and stability in the other. In spite of this criticism, the concluding chapter contains some of the best pages of the book, e.g., pp. 300-312 upon the Place of Chartism in History. The inclusion of a good bibliography and index makes the book usable by serious students.

Chapter three, Anti-Capitalistic Economics, appears to be somewhat of a digression. The statement of the writer, that "the

influence of this body of doctrine upon the mind of the working class" was "manifold" (p. 44) receives such scant substantiation as to leave one with the impression that it was based rather upon *a priori* grounds than upon the results of careful search for the agencies through which contact might have been formed between the minds of the masses in poverty and the thought of the intellectuals. Moreover, as a critical analysis of early socialist literature, the chapter is neither complete nor accurate; on the one hand, it overlooks both some of the obvious precursors of nineteenth century radicalism, *e.g.*, William Bell and others, and also the less apparent but entirely logical connection between the socialism of Vancouver, Hall and Thompson and the trend of thought among the later mercantilists; on the other hand, its critical analysis of socialist theory discloses an incomplete grasp of present-day economic doctrine.

One is inclined to doubt if the author really means what he says when he characterizes Chartism as a movement "exclusively of the industrialised and unpropertied classes." If so, he appears to overthrow his own contention by showing how completely the movement was dominated by middle-class leaders. Indeed, it becomes clear as one reads the book that Chartism was essentially the doctrine of a small middle-class group who diverted popular pressure from other channels and contrived to rally the varied forces of social unrest to the support of their program (see p. 188). Popular interest in Chartism was shallow and easily estranged (pp. 189 ff.). Some of the movements appear to have had little or no connection with Chartism (*e.g.*, the uprisings of 1839) but rather to have been isolated occurrences provoked by local life conditions, embodying no political theory. The judgment of Sir C. J. Napier that the chartist leaders were exploiting the hunger of the people (*Life and Opinions*, by Sir W. F. B. Napier, II, 27) and a very similar opinion of Mr. Gladstone's (Morley, *Gladstone*, I, 26) seem near the truth.

Though it is perhaps unfair to require a writer to elaborate all the departments of his work which are particularly interesting to the individual reader, one might wish that Mr. Hovell had chosen to follow out more in detail his suggestions of the interesting connection between nonconformity and political and economic radicalism (pp. 88, 244).

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